The A. F. of L. Weekly News Service gives a brief summary of important matters affecting labor, occurring in the industrial, legislative and judicial fields, and such other information that will benefit the trade union movement.

AMERICAN FEDERATION OF LABOR

WEEKLY NEWS SERVICE

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AGITATE! EDUCATE! ORGANIZE!

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WILL AMERICA ADOPT EUROPE'S SPY PLAN?

From now until congress convenes next December organized labor should be alert to a crafty propaganda for national legislation that would compel every alien to register under government regulations.

This sinister proposal was advocated in the last congress by Representative Aswell of Louisiana. Its appearance was a preliminary. It will appear again. In the meantime its friends are attempting to build up a friendly public sentiment.

The principle is the German idea of surveillance and police permission. Every move an alien makes is under the eye of police. The Aswell bill provided that every alien "shall report at such times and places and give such information in regard to his movements as may be required by regulation."

The power to make these regulations is unlimited, but this additional evil is not referred to by friends of the proposal.

Under this power to make regulations, the police interpret the alien's conduct—this in a land dedicated to freedom.

Each certificate of identification shall contain a photograph of the alien, his fingerprint and other information, and all employers and hotel keepers shall report any alien 12 hours after his arrival.

The system would be most effective in terrorizing workers and would make the employment by corporations of spies, thugs and injunction judges unnecessary, as this work would then be handled by the federal government.

Aside from its effect in industrial disputes, it has no place in a democracy.

To adopt this European espionage would mean the building up of a vast spying machine to control the lives of millions of people.

Its application would eventually be extended to citizens.

WOULD GAG PROTESTS AGAINST PEN LABOR

Lansing, Mich., April 11.—Representative Odell has introduced a bill in the state legislature which would fail and fine any person who agitates against convict labor goods.

This proposal recalls the demand of pro-slavery congressmen that no petition against slavery be read to the national law-making body.

The Odell bill would make it a criminal offense for any one to speak against the convict labor system or to urge that commodities manufactured under this system be boycotted. Violators of this law would be liable to a fine of not more than $1,000 and from two to 10 years' imprisonment.

A person is liable to draw a life sentence, however, as "each day's violation of this provision shall constitute a separate offense."

Every phase of agitation against convict labor is covered. Free speech and free press are denied, and in addition, the attorney general of the state is empowered to secure an injunction against any one who speaks or writes in opposition to the evil, or who advises that convict-made goods be boycotted.

The bill also provides an easy method for securing some judge that may be friendly to the convict labor exploiters, as proceedings may be started in any county where one of the "conspirators" reside, or where the "offense" was committed, or in the county in which the state capitol is located.

BAKERY WORKERS UNITE

Bellingham, Wash., April 11.—Bakery workers in this city have organized and affiliated with the trade union movement.

FREE PRESS MENACED BY BIG ADVERTISERS

New York, April 11.—Carl C. Magee, editor of the Albuquerque (N. M.) State-Tribune told a luncheon gathering at the Advertising club that as result of his experience in journalism he believed freedom of the press is menaced by the threats of modern business to withhold advertising from papers which print news unfavorable to their interest.

Mr. Magee was introduced as "an interesting survival from the granite age of American journalism." He is credited with having given the senate investigating committee the "lead" that connected former Secretary of the Interior Fall with Teapot Dome by calling attention to Fall's sudden prosperity in New Mexico. The discovery of the $100,000 loan and the "little black satchel" features of the probe followed.

Editor Magee is now under $2,500 bail pending final decision by the state supreme court on contempt charges against him. Twice he has been sentenced by Judge Davis J. Leahy of Los Vegas, N. M., on contempt charges, but was pardoned by Governor Hinkle.

In his address to the Advertising club the editor declared that the idea of the freedom of the press is a fundamental part of Americanism.

"There is," he continued, "a modern trend on the part of those in a position to dominate business to say, 'We will exercise influence over the press through the business we control.'

"Many times in my editorial career I have had advertising men announce their decision to withdraw advertising from my papers because some of the news I printed 'didn't sell pants.'

"Until recently New Mexico labored under a most abhorrent form of tyranny based on the political power of the judges. Members of one party were invariably sent to jail if there was a shadow of evidence against them; members of the other party went free. We must get courts out of politics and send them back into the cold, judicial calm of their judicial chambers.

"In the past, newspapers were licensed by government and men went to prison to establish the freedom of the press that was published secretly in cellars and garrets.

"We must maintain this liberty free from judges and business domination if we are to pass on the heritage."

LOW WAGES PAID HUSBANDS FORCE WIVES INTO INDUSTRY

Washington, April 11.—The failure of men to secure a living wage forces wives and mothers into bread-winning activities, according to a cross-section study of the status of the 8,500,000 women bread-winners in this country by the federal women's bureau.

The report shatters the popular "pin-money" delusion that women for the most part are transients in the wage-earning ranks, and that they will withdraw from this field as soon as they enter matrimony.

"Such a theory is undermined by facts and statistics," the report says. "For example, of the women included in this study, over three-fifths were 25 years of age and over."

The survey was based on 1920 census figures showing the family status of nearly 40,000 women gainfully employed in four widely separated cities—Passaic, N. J.; Jacksonville, Fla.; Butte, Mont., and Wilkes-Barre, Pa.

"As conclusive evidence that marriage does not necessarily mean a termination of the breadwinning activities of women, stands the large proportion of the women, more than one-half of those included in the study, who were or had been married."

Almost four-fifths of all the gainfully employed women who were or had been married were maintaining a home and over nine-tenths of those with wage-earning husbands were caring for a household in addition to the performance of bread-winning occupations. Over one-half of all the bread-winning matrons had children and two-fifths of the mothers had babies under 5 years of age.

The effect on children and the home by such a situation, the report says, "justify perturbation on this score."

"There is something radically wrong with the economic situation in the country," continues the report, "when so many mothers with a husband living in the family circle, presumably as chief supporter, are undoubtedly forced to engage in gainful labor.

"It is obvious that many of the problems connected with bread-winning wives and mothers would be dissipated if the husbands and fathers were to receive a wage adequate for the family needs.

"Undoubtedly such an economic reorganization would mean the withdrawal of a considerable proportion of homemakers from the ranks of bread-winners."

The report declares that double employment of these mothers—at the home and the factory—undermine each community and in the final analysis weaken the strength and prosperity of the nation.

Attention is called to the large number of single women and of married women with husbands incapacitated who are compelled to enter the wage-working ranks.

"In many cases," it is stated, "the burdens of such women would be lessened if there were more general recognition of the fact that frequently women are the sole support of families and have as great a need as do men of a wage rate sufficient to cover the cost of living for dependents."

How Hostile Public Opinion Is Molded

In an address to the Worcester (Mass.) branch of the National association of manufacturers, Judge Huggins of the Kansas industrial court is quoted as saying:

"I do not condemn labor unions as such, and I believe they have a right to organize for protection and defense as long as they do so without violating the law."

Note how labor unions and "violation of the law" are impressed on the public mind?

Business men are never told they may organize "as long as they do so without violating the law." Business men would rightfully resent this imputation that their purpose is other than lawful.

With the exception of workers, the right to organize is never linked with violations of law.

Judge Huggins' statement is the usual method of "clever" pleaders who associate violence and trade unionism in the popular mind while professing to pose as champions of a principle.

Organization by the workers is a principle that must stand apart from other questions. Violation of law is covered by police statutes.

Logically, Judge Huggins puts himself in this ridiculous attitude: "I believe in the right of free speech as long as people use it without violating the law."

DEATH CONTROL URGED BY WESTERN UNIONIST

Monterey, Calif., April 11.—Much has been said about birth control, but too little has been said about death control in industry, said Frank C. McDonald, president of the California building trades council, in his annual report.

"Annually, millions of men, women and children who toil in order to feed, clothe and shelter the people of America are crippled and maimed in industry, while millions of other men, women and children are poisoned and diseased in industry. Human life is too sacred to be thus destroyed.

"The vital factor in industry is the human factor. There is no excuse for wasting it or neglecting it."

President McDonald indorsed a recommendation by Secretary of Labor Davis that the federal government establish in Washington an industry safety exhibit "where could be gathered together for the benefit of American industry as a whole, models, devices and plans for safeguarding the worker in American industry."

BUREAU RULERSHIP AIDS CONTROL BY FEW

Chicago, April 11.—The increase of bureaucracy in government is destroying the capacity of citizens to meet the duties and obligations of citizenship, declared Senator Borah of Idaho in a speech in this city.

This growth of bureaucracy was referred to by the speaker as "the remorseless urge of centralization" that will eventually make government by the few possible.

"It is often charged," Senator Borah said, "that there is a conspiracy somewhere in this country, well organized and subtly active, to bring this government more and more under the control of the few, under the domination of great wealth. Whether such a purpose consciously exists or not, we do know that such is the natural trend of all popular governments.

"But if any such scheme does exist, with what Satanic glee the conspirators must witness the willingness of the people to centralize all power at the capital and place the whole machinery of government in the hands of a few. How easy becomes their task when with local self-government destroyed and the states reduced to mere geographical expressions, the reins of power are, by our cowardly surrender, placed in the hands of a few hundred men. Let it not be forgotten that local self-government is the citizen's citadel of political power. Driven from this, he becomes a political tramp, the helpless victim of arbitrary rule."

LAWMAKER DENOUNCES CONVICT LABOR PLAN

Charleston, W. Va., April 11.—State penitentiary inmates are exploited under the contract system and their lives are in constant danger because of unsanitary conditions and unsafe buildings, declared Dr. Robinson, a member of the West Virginia house of delegates.

In explaining the unbelievable conditions that exist in the state pen, Delegate Robinson, who was a member of the legislative prison probe, said that the place was a fire trap, and that it has but one exit on each floor. He insisted that a "little common sense" would have averted the strike of convicts last October, which was caused by increasing the stint of inmates on contract labor. But 20 prisoners refused to do the extra task. The lack of common sense was shown by prison authorities when they locked up every man in that department and placed him on bread and water. Later the prisoners were turned out in the yard together, and then they organized the strike that cost the state $15,000.

Dr. Robinson told his colleagues that conditions at the pen were rotten to the core, and that "the pages of your typewritten evidence gathered by the investigating committee sustains that charge."

"The prison authorities had advance warning that the legislative investigating commission was coming," he said. "They had ample time to clean up, but if they cleaned up before the investigators arrived, don't know the conditions were before they took this action."

UNIONS TO CONTEST PICKETING DECISION

Tacoma, Wash., April 11.—The local central labor council has called on other central bodies in this state to join in a campaign against the recent anti-picketing decision by the Washington supreme court.

The executive council of the A. F. of L. will be asked to take such steps as are necessary to secure Washington workers the rights accorded them under the Clayton act.

The decision was made in the case of a Seattle theater. A court in that city refused to grant an injunction, but this was reversed by the state supreme court, which held that picketing is unlawful.

The United States supreme court has upheld the principle of picketing, though ruling that courts have the right to designate the number of pickets a union may assign.

In the case of American steel foundries versus Tri-City central trades council, decided in 1921, the supreme court said that the wording of one picket at each factory gate "is not laid down as a rigid rule, but only as one which in general will be safe in cases under the circumstances disclosed by the evidence and which may be varied in other cases."

The court said that the unionists should be allowed "missionaries" to secure converts to their cause.

PRISON LABOR ENDS; STATE USE INSTALLED

Des Moines, Iowa, April 11.—The state legislature has abolished contract labor and established the state use system. The surplus convicts will be employed by the state highway commission upon public highways and in state parks.

Organized labor is jubilant over this ending of the exploitation of convict labor by private contractors. Hereafter, prisoners will manufacture goods for the use of state institutions and be employed in the building of good roads and the beautifying of parks. The agitation for a state-owned cement plant will be renewed by organized labor.

PAINTERS RAISE WAGES

Vancouver, British Columbia, April 11.—Organized painters have won their strike for higher wages. Rates are advanced $2 a week.

TEAPOT DOME LESSEES ESCAPE ON FINE POINT

Washington, April 11.—Chief Justice McCoy of the District of Columbia supreme court has quashed the oil indictments against former Secretary of the Interior Fall, Edward L. Doheny and son and Harry F. Sinclair. The indictments charged bribery and conspiracy to defraud the government in connection with the leasing of Teapot Dome and Elk Hills naval oil reserves.

The indictment were nolled on a fine technical question. The court held that when the senate took the oil cases out of the hands of the department of justice and required the appointment of special counsel by President Coolidge, the attorney general and assistants lost their right to be in the grand jury room.

When the grand jury was considering the indictments a special assistant to the attorney general was in the room. Justice McCoy said that this violated the secrecy of the grand jury.

While the government announces that the decision will be appealed, it is believed that the statute of limitation will operate in most of the charges, and that this ends the criminal cases against the oil men. Federal Judge Kennedy of Cheyenne is still considering the evidence submitted to him in the government's civil suit to annul the oil leases.

YEAR'S FOOD COSTS UP

Washington, April 11.—For the year period March 15, 1924, to March 15, 1925, the cost of food increased, the United States bureau of labor statistics announced, these increases in food centers: Peoria, 9 per cent; Detroit, 7 per cent; Buffalo, Cleveland and Norfolk, 6 per cent; New York, Richmond, Scranton and Washington, D. C., 5 per cent; Indianapolis, 4 per cent; Charleston, S. C., Columbus, Milwaukee and Portland, Me., 3 per cent; Boston, Bridgeport, Newark and New Haven, 2 per cent, and Providence, 1 per cent. Fall River decreased less than 1 per cent in cost.

DEFEAT OLD AGE PENSIONS

Columbus, Ohio, April 11.—The state legislature permitted organized labor's old age pension bill to die in committee. The workers' agitation has impressed large numbers of citizens with the condition of aged industrial workers, and trade unionists are confident that a substantial educational gain has been made.

DEMOCRACY NOT LIMITED TO GOVERNMENT

By WILLIAM GREEN
President American Federation of Labor

Labor does not admit that democracy is good only in political affairs and not good in industrial affairs. It is as good and as workable in one field as in the other.

When the people of America achieved political freedom and established political democracy they knew nothing about such an industrial order as we have today. They faced political oppression and they got rid of it. They knew nothing about industrial oppression because there was no such thing as an organized industrial life, no such thing as manufacture by the use of power and machinery. They knew about one kind of government and they determined that it should be operated by and with the consent of the governed. Taxes, education, laws, ordinances governing conduct—these were the problems faced in those early days when life had its roots in the land and not in the factory.

But today the average worker finds the question of wages more important than the income tax, the question of working hours more important than the question of who shall be attorney general and the question of shop conditions more important than a book full of city ordinances.

In other words, a whole new world of human activity has grown up outside of the realm covered by political government. This realm can not be touched, except to its detriment, by political government. This realm must make its own laws, "by and with the consent of the governed."

That, in a way, is the basis of the philosophy upon which American labor has taken its stand. If American labor stands almost alone among the labor movements of the world on this great question it may as well be said that it is because American labor is more fundamentally democratic than labor in most other countries. And this applies particularly to the labor movements of Europe where what may be called "state-ism" has such a firm hold.

WOULD SLUR CONGRESS TO SECURE LOWER TAX

Washington, April 11.—The mud-slinging campaign against congress is backed by large interests that would jam the Mellon plan through the national law-making body, it is charge made by Senator Walsh of Montana. The Mellon plan would lower taxes on higher incomes.

If congress can be brought into disrepute it will be comparatively easy for advocates of lower surtaxes to impose their will, according to the senator.

The Montana lawmaker does not feel alarmed over the claims that President Dawes will continue his fight against the senate, because rules of procedure are not to his liking.

"I believe the vice president will confine himself to discussion of the senate rules and will not attack the senate itself," Senator Walsh said.

"Besides," the senator significantly added, "I don't suppose his utterances will be as impressive as they might have been before the Warren episode."

UNEMPLOYMENT NOT DECLINING

Albany, N. Y., April 11.—Factory employment is not well defined, reports the state department of labor. It is estimated that there was 11,000 fewer workers on factory pay rolls than in March a year ago. In view of this, together with irregularity among the various industry groups in March, the department states that the upward movement of industrial activity can not be said to be well defined.

COMPENSATION BILL SIGNED BY GOVERNOR

Phoenix, Ariz., April 11.—Governor Hunt has signed the workmen's compensation bill, which creates an industrial commission of three members. The commission will enforce all laws for the protection of life, health, safety and welfare of every employe where such supervision is not otherwise delegated.

A state compensation fund is created for the purpose of insuring employers against liability in personal injury cases. The rates of compensation shall never be lowered by the industry eliminated except by initiative referendum.

As the bill includes changes in the state constitution it will be submitted for popular approval next September.

COOKS ARE UP TO DATE

Seattle, April 11.—The Cooks and Assistants' union has dissarded the old hand-marked ballot and installed a modern voting machine. It was used for the first time in their election that just closed.

HERE'S "POPULAR RULE"

Denver, Colo., April 11.—Friends of the federal child labor amendment have been downed in their efforts to have the proposal reported by the legislative committee.

CHILD LABOR FRIENDS CARELESS WITH TRUTH

Washington, April 11.—The claim that the federal child labor amendment gives congress exclusive power over child labor is "an amazing assertion," declares Miss A. Ryan, D. C. L., writing in the Journal of the National Association. The assertion is contained in a pamphlet written by James Emery, attorney for the National association of manufacturers.

"Anyone who takes the trouble to read the proposed amendment will find a direct contradiction of this charge in the first sentence of the second section," Dr. Ryan said.

"It there expressly stated that the power of the several states over child labor remains unimpaired except to give effect to congressional enactments. The only power taken from the states by the proposed amendment is that of maintaining less adequate laws than those which might be passed by congress. State laws which agree with the federal statutes, or which set up higher standards, will continue to have force and validity.

"Industrial conditions are sufficiently similar throughout the country to justify a uniform and universal minimum of legislative standards. Children in all parts of the country are sufficiently alike to need a uniform minimum protection. No one will seriously contend that the standards set up in the two federal laws, which were declared unconstitutional, gave too much protection to the children of any state."

INJUNCTION WILD MAN IS PITIFUL SPECTACLE

East St. Louis, Ill., April 11.—If congress were in session it would be possible to acquaint the nation with methods employed by Federal Judge Wilkerson, now being probed by a congressional committee.

During the shopmen's strike, this judge was an injunction wild man. He was in the front rank of law and order defenders. Daily the newspapers printed long accounts of his table-thumping denunciations of working men who dared to strike.

Now, federal managers before his probers that he did not know his son received interest on money belonging to bankrupt persons. This money was deposited, on the order of English, in a bank in which his son was employed. This charge that the judge's order was forced to admit he was a director of a bank in which he ordered funds of bankrupts deposited.

He was shown to be intimate with a referee in bankruptcy, whose fees have swelled the assets of bankrupts, leaving nothing to creditors.

With his mumbling and pleading of ignorance of the law, Judge Wilkerson presents a different picture from the days when he would terrorize workers.

UNION BANK PROSPERS

New York, April 11.—The Federation bank is preparing to celebrate its second anniversary with a "birthday party" on April 24, 1926, it was stated, will be Governor Smith and William Green, president of the A. F. of L.

The bank closed the first quarter of 1925 with resources that total $9,100,000.

UNION PAYS BENEFITS

Chicago, April 11.—Last year organized street car men in this city paid $797,962.32 in benefits. This includes funeral, disability and old age pensions, collections for sick members and funeral expenses.

STATE UNIONS TO MEET

Jackson, Tenn., April 11.—The annual convention of the Tennessee state federation of labor will be held in this city beginning May 4.

NON-UNION WORKERS JOIN MINERS' STRIKE

Charleston, W. Va., April 11.—Thousands of unorganized miners in this state joined in the observance of John Mitchell day, under the auspices of the United Mine Workers of America.

President Green of the A. F. of L. spoke to meetings at Morgantown and Clarksburg that were marked by large delegations of non-union miners. W. Cannelton another meeting of record breaking size was marked by large attention of the state federation of labor, and district officials of the mine workers.

John Mitchell day commemorates the establishment of the miners' eight-hour day in the anthracite coal fields, to inaugurate the campaign to unionize West Virginia. This movement will be carried into guard-controlled Logan and McDowell counties.

The anti-union operators are appealing to their employees to join the union. In advertisements published in the Fairmont press, they say:

"You can work in safety. The governor, the county authorities, the state police, and all well-thinking, intelligent and respectable citizens of northern West Virginia are behind the miners, their wives and little children against the thugs and gun men imported into West Virginia by the union coal operators to intimidate, assault, coerce, browbeat and murder our people."

PORTO RICO UNIONS AGITATE FOR LABEL

Washington, April 11.—Porto Rico trade unionists are awake to the significance of the union label. In a letter to John P. Manning, secretary-treasurer of the Union Label Trades department, A. W. Ortiz, Jamie P. George of Wiagara, Porto Rico, requests that union manufacturers and merchants send slides or films of their goods, which will be advertised without cost in union headquarters.

The letter states that "over 4,000 persons attend exhibitions on Saturday and Sunday evenings."

MORE "YELLOW DOG"

Chicago, April 11.—Members of the United Leather Workers' International union were notified today that the Chicago belting company because they refused to sign a "yellow dog" pact concern manufacturing leather belting. The management insists that employes agree to surrender their right to be members of the leather workers' union as the price for employment.

The United States supreme court upheld this vicious contract that is based on the necessities of a worker and his family. Courts have invariably held that a contract is void where it is secured through duress. The "yellow dog" operates through the meanest form of duress, but it is declared legal by the highest court in the land.

STRIKERS RETURN

Utica, N. Y., April 11.—Textile employes, who suspended work against a wage reduction have returned to work pending arbitration. All strikers have secured their old positions, and the strikebreakers were dismissed.

PAINTERS RAISE WAGES

Rock Island, Ill., April 11.—Painters of the tri-cities—Rock Island, Moline and Davenport—have raised wages 12½ cents an hour.

SEAMEN ORGANIZE ON LUMBER PILE

San Francisco, April 11.—On a lumber pile in Folsom street, 40 years ago, a handful of workers organized the Sailors' union of the Pacific.

This union has just celebrated its fortieth birthday in magnificent Scottish hall, which it erected in Clay street.

Among the speakers at the anniversary celebration was James H. Barry, San Francisco pioneer and first citizen, who is as staunch for the right today as when he urged the little crowd on the Folsom street lumber pile to stand together.

Only seamen can appreciate the changed conditions that this union wrought. The list includes:

Higher pay.
Shorter workday.
Better food.
Larger forecastles.
Respectful treatment.
Right to quit vessels in port.
Abolition of allotment and advance.
Freedom from attachment of wages and clothing.
Abolition of crimping system (boarding house labor agents).
Abolition of "buckoism."
Establishment of independence and self-respect.
Elevation of seamen's status in law and public opinion to a place of equality with that of land workers.

A message from Washington, read at the anniversary meeting, Andrew Furuseth, president of the International Seamen's union, and one of the founders of the Pacific branch, urged these unionists to have faith in themselves.

"When our enemies scoffed and sneered, we gritted our teeth and organized," President Furuseth said. "Only two or three union men going on board of a vessel and bringing back a whole union crew. We did those things in '97 and '98. We did them again in '94, '95 and '96 when our status under the law was by no means as good as it is now. When a man could be compelled to work on a vessel against his will, when he could be arrested, pursued even through the forest, captured and brought back to work against his will; we could do it then—we certainly can do it now.

"I have the same faith that I had before, with the addition that comes from a better legal status.

"Let us go from this Pentecostal meeting fully determined that we will never cease in our efforts to bring back those who are traveling in the wilderness, and who are worthy of our comradeship, and to bring into our fold all those who are willing to share in the burdens of the struggle for that which we can hold aloft, as no other organization can.

"Compared with what the condition was in the beginning of '87, compared to what it was in '94 and '95, our present position is full of promise and full of hope. We shall not need the stupendous amount of effort that was put forth then to become victorious here.

"There is not one of you but knows that the cause is done. All that is needs is faith in ourselves and faith in our shipmates—faith in our fellow seamen to translate that faith into will and to joint effort.

"Thus you will win, because it is written: 'Where two or three are gathered in my name (freedom) there will I be among them.'"